

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

|                                      |   |                           |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Applicant: Kenneth Graham Paterson   | ) | Re: Preliminary Amendment |
|                                      | ) |                           |
| Serial No.: not yet assigned         | ) |                           |
| Filed: concurrently herewith         | ) | Group: 2672               |
|                                      | ) |                           |
| Divisional of USSN <u>09/381,010</u> | ) | Examiner: Daniel J. Chung |
| filed on <u>September 13, 1999</u>   | ) |                           |
|                                      | ) |                           |
| For: "DECODER SYSTEM CAPABLE OF      | ) | Our Ref: B-3719DIVofPCT   |
| PERFORMING A PLURAL-STAGE            | ) | 617284-4                  |
| PROCESS"                             | ) |                           |
|                                      | ) | Date: September 23, 2003  |

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. BOX 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The above-identified application is a divisional of pending prior U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/381,010 filed on September 13, 1999, which is the U.S. national stage of PCT/GB98/00917. This paper is being filed as a Preliminary Amendment to the above-identified Application being filed concurrently herewith. Prior to the examination of the above-identified Application, it is respectfully requested that the amendments presented below be made to the Application.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Abstract** begin on page 5 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 6 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 9 of this paper.